

## River Parrett Trail Route Text

### Section

### Area

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| 1 | Chedington to Merriott                         |
| 2 | Merriott to Ham Hill                           |
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| 4 | Merriott to Gawbridge Mill via South Petherton |
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**The River Parrett Trail**  
**Following a River from Source to Mouth**

**48 miles from Chedington, Dorset to the Bristol Channel**

**SECTION 1: CHEDINGTON TO MERRIOTT**

**Length of walk: 6.75 miles**

**General description:** Waterproof boots are advisable as much of this first section is through fields close to the River; in particular the fields between the start and South Perrott are wet as there are many springs in this area. The route is primarily level. There may be livestock in the fields.

This section crosses 4 A roads where extreme care should be taken.

This route passes through beautiful hamstone villages.

**Start point & Parking: – Winyards Gap Pub.** (Parking in pub car park if permission asked from Landlord).  
Street parking in Merriott (Church car park)

**Toilets:** None other than in pubs

**Places to Eat & Drink:** Pubs at Winyard's Gap, South Perrott, North Perrott and Merriott

**Public Transport:** See [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or bus timetables from TICs/libraries

**Maps:** You are advised to carry with you OS Explorer Map

- 116 Lyme Regis & Bridport
- 129 Yeovil & Sherborne

**Waymarking:** The route is waymarked.

**1. ST 491 062 WINYARD'S GAP PUB, CHEDINGTON**  
*(Interpretation boards in Pub garden with superb views)*

With your back to pub turn L down road for 400 yds towards Chedington to reach signed footpath on R. Go through gate, head diagonally L to marker post and then bear R towards gate. Go straight across next 2 fields. In next field bear R of 3 large trees and aim for gate in bottom R hand corner.

**2. ST 483 063**

Go through gate and follow R hand edge of next 2 fields, with start of river on your R. At end of 2<sup>nd</sup> field go through gate and turn R, signed to South Perrott, and then immediately L at next gate into field and aim for gate in top R hand corner. Go through gate and keep to R hand edge of next field (seating area on R) to gate in far R hand corner of field. Go through and turn L to cross bridge over river to another gate opposite to reach a lane. This lane crosses a ford and continues on to meet a road.

(If ford is impassable take signed permissive path on your left, further back on the lane. This goes through gate and along R hand edge of field and rejoins the lane past the ford by way of a pedestrian gates).

On reaching road turn R and then immediately L on signed path to reach gate into South Perrott churchyard.  
(A)

*(A) Attractive Dorset village with church, streams, small bridges and C17th and C18th stone cottages. Village name derived from river.*

### **3. ST 478 067 SOUTH PERROTT**

Leave churchyard by main iron gateway and walk down road to reach main road (A356 – pub on R). Cross road with care. Continue on footpath through gate. Bear diagonally R uphill to cross stile in R hand hedge. Turn L and then R around houses to reach a road. Go along road to reach T junction. Turn L and walk for ½ mile along road to Pipplepen Farm.

### **4. ST 473 076 PIPPLEPEN FARM**

Continue on road passing the farm on your R. Where road bends L go straight ahead on footpath signed to North Perrott. Cross field to far side. Pass through kissing gate, footbridge and kissing gate. Follow R hand edge of next field to brow of hill and then diagonally L to railway crossing in far L hand corner.

### **5. ST 473 083**

Cross railway with care and go straight ahead in next field aiming for R of group of trees ahead. On reaching trees bear diagonally R to cross kissing gate and wooden footbridge in R hand boundary. Go through second kissing gate and bear L in next field aiming for gate in top L hand corner. Go through gate to reach a waymarked stile. Turn R uphill aiming towards a house to reach a metal gate in top R hand corner. Go through and walk to R of cottages to reach road. Turn L, walk along road to junction with main A road. Turn R along road, passing pub on R, to reach village green in North Perrott. (B)

*(B) Church of St Martin dates from C12th. Manor House was built in 1877 and after the Second World War became Perrott Hill School.*

### **6. ST 475 095 NORTH PERROTT**

Turn L at village green and walk along road to reach church on R. Continue past church, across 2 cattle grids on path signed to Willis Lane. Just past 2<sup>nd</sup> cattle grid go R through kissing gate and cross field downhill, just to L of large trees to reach a kissing gate onto a road.

### **7. ST 469 098**

Turn L along road, pass school on L and continue straight ahead on path signed to Crewkerne. On reaching gate bear R to go through kissing gate. Walk down narrow enclosed path to reach a further kissing gate. Cross and

continue downhill on wider farm track to reach gate. Cross and bear slightly L, just to R of group of trees, and where trees end turn L towards a metal gate close to the River Parrett. Go through gate and walk upstream with river on R and old mill ruins on L until you reach a bridge.

#### **8. ST 461 098**

Cross the river, pass through kissing gate, and turn sharp R to now walk downstream with river on R. Keep along the river bank for 0.5 miles, passing through several kissing gates, until you reach footbridge on R. Cross and turn L across field, with river now on L, to reach squeeze gate to R of road bridge. Go up steps to reach very busy main road (A30). Cross with extreme care to steps directly opposite on path signed to Merriott. With river on your L aim for far R hand corner of field to a squeeze gate onto road opposite Haselbury Mill.

#### **9. ST 459 110 HASELBURY MILL**

Turn R on road and immediately L through squeeze gate signed to Merriott. Walk along L hand edge of field, past fingerpost and where hedgeline ends bear L to squeeze gate in far L hand corner. Keep to L hand edge of next field to footbridge across River Parrett.

#### **10. ST 459 115**

Cross bridge and head initially straight ahead and then bear R to footbridge and kissing gate in R hand hedgerow. Continue in same direction across next 2 fields passing through kissing gates. In next field go straight across,

15yds in from R hand edge, to reach a footbridge and gate in far hedge. Keep to R hand edge of next fields crossing kissing gates before reaching enclosed grassy path to kissing gate onto main road (A356).

#### **11. ST 451 121**

Cross main road with care and take path signed to Tail Mill. (C) Continue for 0.5 miles along this track passing mill on R to reach the end of the track at a T junction in Merriott. Turn R on road and after 30yds turn L on footpath signed to church. After a footbridge you emerge onto a grassy path. Turn L and follow hedgeline past fieldgate on R to reach metal pedestrian gate and stone stile. Pass through gate and stone stile and follow enclosed path to kissing gate. Go through gate and go straight ahead to reach road at Merriott. (D)  
(Turn L here to visit church).

*(C) Tail Mill was a sail cloth factory and made sails for Nelson's ship The Victory.*

*(D) Merriott means boundary gate and is worth exploring. Many fine C17th and C18th hamstone houses and interesting courts set back beneath archways. Church dates from C13th. Famous for market gardening – first use of word 'nursery' occurred in Merriott in 1369.*

#### **12 445 128 MERRIOTT – Start of Sections 2 and 4**

**The River Parrett Trail  
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**SECTION 2: MERRIOTT TO HAM HILL (EAST LINK)**

**Length of walk: 5.75 miles**

**General description:** Level walking across fields from Merriott to Norton Sub Hamdon. There follows a steep climb up to Ham Hill but with rewarding views across the Somerset countryside. A steep descent is then followed by level walking across fields.

The route passes through a number of beautiful hamstone villages.

There may be livestock in fields.

**Start point & Parking:** – Merriott Church – parking on street (Church car park). Car parks at Ham Hill and Martock.

**Toilets:** Ham Hill and Martock

**Places to Eat & Drink:** Pubs at Merriott, Norton sub Hamdon, Ham Hill, Stoke Sub Hamdon, Bower Hinton and Martock. Shops at Norton Sub Hamdon, Stoke Sub Hamdon, Bower Hinton and Martock.

**Public Transport:** See [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or bus timetables from TICs/libraries

**Maps:** You are advised to carry with you OS Explorer Map

- 129 Yeovil & Sherborne

**Waymarking:** The route is waymarked.

**6. ST 445 128 MERRIOTT (from Section 1)**

Turn R on road and pass pub on L. Turn L at T junction into Higher Street. Where road bends R turn L on track and then footpath signed to Garstone Lane. Where this enclosed path bends R, turn R, ignoring stile ahead of you. At kissing gate continue on R hand edge of next 2 fields and then across the middle of next large field to reach kissing gate at Garstone Lane.

**7. ST 446 135**

Cross track, go through kissing gate opposite and follow L hand edge of next 4 fields. In 5<sup>th</sup> field go across middle of field, aiming for gate to R of large tree. Go through gate, cross stream and continue straight ahead to gap in hedge opposite. Keep to L hand edge of next field and on reaching end of trees on L, bear diagonally R across a grassy strip to a fingerpost. Go to R of post and continue on L hand edge of next field which finally bends round to R to reach footbridge on L. Cross bridge go straight ahead

on path aiming for large hedgerow and then turn L, keeping hedge on R to reach kissing gate in top R hand corner. Cross and keep along R hand edge of field to reach road at Lower Stratton.

#### **8. ST 444 152 LOWER STRATTON**

Turn R on road. At junction keep ahead on No Through Road signed to Wigborough. Continue to end of road, passing Wigborough Manor on R. At end of high walls bear round to R and look for waymarked path straight ahead across a grassy field. At brow of hill continue downhill to gate in corner. Cross gate and follow L hand edge of long field to eventually reach a kissing gate on L at a road. Turn R on road to reach Creedy Bridge across River Parrett.

#### **4. ST 459 157 CREEDY BRIDGE**

Immediately past the bridge turn right on footpath through metal squeeze gate. Bear L across field to squeeze gate in far L hand corner. Go through and follow R hand edge of next field to kissing gate at busy A road.

#### **5. ST 464 154**

Cross road with care to layby opposite, turn L for 10yds and then turn R through gate onto footpath. Immediately turn sharp right on R hand edge of field to reach stream and turn L to follow stream on R. Continue to follow stream on R, ignoring 2 footbridges on your R. Eventually you reach and cross a footbridge ahead of you and follow an

obvious path with stream now on your L to reach road at Norton Sub Hamdon. (A)

*(A) It is well worth exploring the village and its fine C15th perpendicular church in its beautiful setting. The circular dovecote next to the church is the oldest building in the village. There are many grand hamstone buildings.*

#### **6. ST 470 158 NORTON SUB HAMDON**

Turn R on road to reach main road through village. (Turn L along road and take first right up Church Lane to reach church). Turn R along road passing pub on L. Continue along road, passing playing fields on R, keeping to the raised path on R. Where road bends R, turn L into Greenham Cross, signed to Little Norton.

#### **7. ST 478 158 LITTLE NORTON**

Pass through Little Norton with its mill on R. Bend L up road signed to Ham Hill. After 200yds turn right up steps on footpath signed to Ham Hill and walk up steep path through bracken to reach fingerpost at top of hill. Turn L on main track, ignore gate on R and at next waymarked junction of tracks bear L on main path. At a fork of grassy paths bear L to reach parking area and information board. Keep to L of car park and take narrow undulating path to L, ignoring any down hill paths to L, to reach road at Ham Hill. Turn L to reach layby on L with stunning views and information boards. (B)

*(B) Practically every building in this area is made from hamstone, hewn out of this hill whose profile dominates the area.*

*Within the realm of the hilltop are several landscapes, all created by the process of quarrying the hamstone. Medieval spoil heaps, now softened by weather, grass and flowers, have become a hilly country in miniature. At the northern end, beneath the monument, the stone has been scooped out creating a ragged edged arena, within which is a stone circle, a monument to the memory of all the men and women who have lived and worked over the centuries on Ham Hill. All is bounded by the ramparts of the huge Iron Age fort.*

*Ham Hill is a Country Park managed by South Somerset District Council through a team of rangers and volunteers. It exists as open access countryside for everyone and offers superb views of the Levels, Exmoor and the Mendip Hills. A booklet available on site gives detailed information on Ham Hill and includes suggestions for circular walks.*

## **8. ST 478 167 HAM HILL**

At far end of layby cross road and turn R down steps to reach a picnic area. Cross picnic area to reach a tarmac road. (Toilets on L here). Turn R to reach pub on L. Bear L round the pub and go through pub car park to reach a gate opposite. Go through gate (excellent views out to R here) and follow main surfaced track, passing Ham Hill's version of Stonehenge on your L to reach the Memorial.

**Start here for Section 3**

**The River Parrett Trail  
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**SECTION 3: HAM HILL TO LANGPORT**

**Length of walk: 10.75 miles**

**General description**

A steep descent from Ham Hill to Stoke Sub Hamdon followed by a level walk mainly across fields to Bower Hinton. Level walking across fields to Kingsbury Episcopi and then onto Thorney Bridge. Thereafter the route follows the grassy bank of the River Parrett to Langport. There may be livestock in fields.  
The route passes through beautiful hamstone villages and it is recommended to divert into Muchelney.

**Start point & Parking:** – Ham Hill Country Park car park. Car park in Langport.

**Toilets:** Ham Hill, Stoke Sub Hamdon and Langport.

**Places to Eat & Drink:** Pubs at Ham Hill, Stoke Sub Hamdon, Bower Hinton, Kingsbury Episcopi and Langport. Seasonal Tea rooms at Muchelney. Shops and other facilities at Stoke Sub Hamdon and Langport. Shop at Bower Hinton.

**Public Transport:** See [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or bus timetables from TICs/libraries

**Maps:** You are advised to carry with you OS Explorer Map

- 129 Yeovil & Sherborne

**Waymarking:** The route is waymarked.

**1. ST 477 173 HAM HILL MEMORIAL (from Section 2)**

Go to R of memorial and down slope to pass a seat on your R. Continue steeply downhill on well trodden path (with Stoke Sub Hamdon Church diagonally R) to reach a gate. Go through and then turn R to reach a grassy path with fence on R. At junction of paths turn L on steps downhill to reach a road. Turn R on road downhill to reach main road through Stoke Sub Hamdon.

**2. ST 474 174 STOKE SUB HAMDON**

Turn L into village and then next R into North St, signed to Martock. Walk along road with care for 0.75 miles to cross over main A303. 300yds past A303 turn L on road and then immediately L, signed to Bower Hinton. Continue on tarmac road through metal kissing gate onto a track after last house on R. Turn R on track signed to Bower Hinton. After nearly 0.5 miles track reaches 2 gates. Continue ahead and keep to R hand edge of field, ignoring stile on R, to reach gateway in far R hand corner. Continue on L



hand edge of next field and on reaching far end bear R to kissing gates in corner. Continue on R hand edge of next 2 fields. At end of 2<sup>nd</sup> field path bears L then turn R to reach an enclosed path to reach road at Bower Hinton.

### **3. ST 457 180 BOWER HINTON**

Turn R on road. After passing church on R you reach a shop and notice board on L.

(Carry straight on to visit pub on R. To visit Martock, which is well worth visiting, carry straight on through Bower Hinton following main road).

### **4. ST 457 180 BOWER HINTON**

Continue down road and turn L on next narrow lane which soon becomes a rough track. Follow this as it bears R and then bends L to reach a fingerpost signed River Parrett Trail. Turn L through allotments and walk along L hand edge of field to reach a T junction in far L hand corner. Turn R and follow L hand edge of field. In far corner cross bridge to meet a farm track. Turn R and walk to next gate on L. Go through and walk along R hand edge of next 2 fields aiming for the distinctive chimney of the Parrett Works. Cross bridge and walk along L hand edge of next field to kissing gate in far L hand corner. Pass through and follow narrow path to next gate and then turn R with wall on L to reach a gate onto road. Turn L on road, pass caravan park on R, to reach bridge over River Parrett at Parrett Works.

### **5. ST 446 187 PARRETT WORKS**

Immediately past the bridge turn R on footpath keeping to R hand edge of field with river on R. On reaching last large bend in river bear L to kissing gate in hedgeline. Turn R along Drove and then when faced with open field turn L. Walk across middle of field aiming for a stile in the corner of the hedgerows. On reaching stile, do not cross but bear R with hedge on L to reach a kissing gate in far L hand corner. Turn R along R hand edge of field and then L to reach a metal footbridge in bottom L hand corner. Cross this and walk along R hand edge of field, with River Parrett now coming in on your R, to go through a kissing gate in far R hand corner. Walk along R hand edge of next field to go through kissing gate to reach a road.

### **6. ST 443 196 GAWBRIDGE MILL**

Turn R on road and pass Mill on R. At next junction turn L on road signed to Kingsbury and after 40 yds turn R on footpath signed to Kingsbury Episcopi. Cross sleeper bridge and pass through kissing gate. Aim for kissing gate in far hedge 50 yds in from river. Continue slight diagonally L through next field to cross kissing gates in far left hand corner. Turn R and follow river bank, with church ahead of you, through kissing gates until you reach footbridge. Cross and continue straight ahead aiming for gate in front of housing. Go through kissing gate and along narrow path with stream on R, turning R to cross footbridge to reach road.

**7. ST 435 210 KINGSBURY EPISCOPI**

(Turn R here to visit church). Turn L and walk along road to reach T junction. (Turn L here to visit pub).

Turn R along road to reach village green with its octagonal lock up. Turn L, going straight on at next 2 junctions. Just after 2<sup>nd</sup> junction (road called West End) bear L between houses. Follow enclosed path to reach a kissing gate and footpath sign to Thorney Bridge. Go to end of path, cross stile and turn R, signed to Thorney.

**8. ST 431 211**

Walk along R hand edge of field, cross bridge and continue ahead across fields through kissing gates until reaching footbridge and metal gate in top R hand corner of field. Go through and walk along L hand edge of next field, through kissing gate. Cross wooden bridge, turn L then R and follow L hand field edge around and then watch for a footbridge on L. Cross this, go through kissing gate, follow L hand edge of field to cross stone bridge in far L hand corner. Go through metal gate and turn R with brook now on R. Continue on R hand edge of fields until reaching fingerpost at a crossing track.

**9. ST 426 224**

Continue straight ahead signed to Thorney. Keep along R hand edge of fields with brook on R until reaching a wooden footbridge onto a track with fingerpost. Turn R on track signed to Thorney Bridge. On reaching road turn L and walk to road bridge across River Parrett.

**10. ST 427 229 THORNEY BRIDGE**

Just before road bridge turn L on footpath signed to Westover Bridge. Walk along L hand bank of River Parrett for 1 mile, passing through several gates, to reach Muchelney Pumping Station on your left, where several waterways meet.

**11. ST 418 236 MULCHENEY PUMPING STATION**

Bear round to L, cross bridge and pass to right of Pumping Station. Pass a group of trees, turn R to cross bridge and turn R again to pass Pumping Station on your R to reach a metal gate. Go through and continue along L hand bank of River Parrett for 1.2 miles, passing through several metal gates, heading towards Muchelney church, ahead to reach road at Westover Bridge.

**12. ST 425 248 WESTOVER BRIDGE, MUCHELNEY**

(Turn R here to visit Muchelney- recommended)

Go straight across road and continue on L hand bank of river signed to Huish Bridge, passing through several metal gates. At a point where there is a wooden kissing gate on the river bank, ignore this and continue straight ahead through waymarked metal gates slightly away from the river but with a ditch on your R. After passing through 2 gates in quick succession turn R on track and cross Huish Bridge across River Parrett. Immediately after crossing bridge turn L and follow right hand river bank, with River Parrett on L and ditch on R. Follow the river bank for 400 yds, ignoring footbridges on R. (Turn R at 2<sup>nd</sup> footbridge

signed to Langport for car park, shops and toilets). Continue straight on along river bank, passing picnic area, to reach Visitor Centre next to major road bridge.

### **13. ST 416 266 LANGPORT**

**Start here for Section 5**

**The River Parrett Trail  
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**48 miles from Chedington, Dorset to the Bristol Channel**

**SECTION 4: MERRIOTT TO GAWBRIDGE MILL via  
SOUTH PETHERTON (WEST LINK)**

**Length of walk: 6.25 miles**

**General description**

A level walk across fields and along quiet lanes. The route goes through beautiful hamstone villages of Merriott and Over Stratton and the town of South Petherton.

**Start point & Parking:** – Merriott Church – parking on road (Church car park); car park at South Petherton.

**Toilets:** South Petherton.

**Places to Eat & Drink:** pubs at Merriott, Over Stratton, East Lambrook and South Petherton. Shops at South Petherton.

**Public Transport:** See [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or bus timetables from TICs/libraries

**Maps:** You are advised to carry with you OS Explorer Map

- 129 Yeovil & Sherborne

**Waymarking:** The route is waymarked.

**9. ST 445 128 MERRIOTT (from Section 1)**

Turn R on road and pass pub on L. Turn L at T junction into Higher Street. Where road bends R turn L on track and then footpath signed to Garstone Lane. Where this enclosed path bends R, turn R, ignoring stile ahead of you. At next stile continue on R hand edge of next 2 fields and then across the middle of next large field to reach kissing gate at Garstone Lane.

**10. ST 446 135**

Cross track, go through kissing gate opposite and follow L hand edge of next 4 fields. In 5<sup>th</sup> field go across middle of field, aiming for gate to R of large tree. Go through gate, cross stream and continue straight ahead to gap in hedge opposite. Keep to L hand edge of next field and on reaching end of trees on L, bear diagonally R across a grassy strip to a fingerpost. Go to R of post and continue

on L hand edge of next field which finally bends round to R to reach footbridge on L. Cross bridge go straight ahead on path aiming for large hedgerow and then turn L, keeping hedge on R to reach stile in top R hand corner. Cross and keep along R hand edge of field to reach road at Lower Stratton.

### **11.ST 444 152 LOWER STRATTON**

Turn L along road. At junction turn L and continue along road into Over Stratton. At next junction turn R on road signed to South Petherton. Walk past pub and after 150 yds turn L down Fosse Lane. At end of lane turn R into Northfield Lane, signed to Watergore. Follow track to its end at a road.

### **12.ST 432 158**

Cross road with care to track opposite. At T junction turn R on road and then at crossroads turn L on road crossing A303. This bends L and then R signed to South Petherton. Keep on this road which becomes South Street to its end in South Petherton.

### **13.ST 434 169 SOUTH PETHERTON (A)**

Turn L downhill on Knapp Hill and bear L uphill on St James's Street through town. Pass Market Square on L and continue straight ahead until reaching Silver Street. Turn R and follow road to T junction. Bear L uphill and after 80 yds turn L on footpath signed to East Lambrook. Go past Woodland Trust site on L. Pass through 2 metal gates and continue straight on. Over stile, through gate

and proceed with fence on R. Ignore stile and bridge on L. Continue straight over private drive and carry on with stream on L. Go through stone squeeze stile, over 2 bridges and stile, and follow L hand edge of field. At metal footbridge cross and follow short enclosed section to reach road. Turn R and follow Water Street to end, ignoring Church Lane on L.

*(A) Many hamstone buildings including a C14th manor house that was restored in C19th and nicknamed King Ina's Palace. There is evidence of both Iron Age and Roman occupation in the area. Church of St Peter and St Paul dates from C13th and is believed to have the tallest octagonal church tower in the UK.*

### **14.ST 433 186 EAST LAMBROOK (B)**

(Turn L for village)

At T junction turn R, cross bridge and turn immediately L. Go through 2 kissing gates and keep stream on your L. In the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> field bear R towards kissing gate. This is where the East Link via Ham Hill joins. Do not pass through the kissing gate but bear L back towards the stream. Walk with stream on L. At metal footbridge on L, cross and turn R heading for tall trees ahead. Pass through 2 kissing gates to reach road.

*(B) Beautiful village with Manor Gardens – created by Margery Fish who was known as the 'Leading Lady of Gardening' in the 1950s.*

## **7. ST 443 196 GAWBRIDGE MILL**

Turn R on road and pass Mill on R. At next junction turn L on road signed to Kingsbury and after 40 yds turn R on footpath signed to Kingsbury Episcopi. Cross sleeper bridge and pass through kissing gate. Aim for kissing gate in far hedge 50 yds in from river. Continue slight diagonally L through next field to cross kissing gates in far left hand corner. Turn R and follow river bank, with church ahead of you, crossing kissing gates until you reach footbridge.

Cross and continue straight ahead aiming for gate in front of housing. Go through kissing gate and along narrow path with stream on R, turning R to cross footbridge to reach road.

Follow directions using Ham Hill to Langport (Section 3) to continue on main route.

**From Langport start Section 5**

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**SECTION 5:     LANGPORT TO BRIDGWATER DOCKS**

**Length of walk: 13.5 miles**

**General description:** A level walk for its entire distance. It follows the River Parrett from Langport to Moorland, mainly on a grassy bank, but with some quiet roads after Burrowbridge. From Moorland the route switches from the riverbank to the mainly firm towpath of the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal.

**Start point & Parking:** – **Langport car park in town centre.** Car parks at Burrow Mump and alongside the canal at Fordgate and Huntworth. Car parks in Bridgwater.

**Toilets:** Langport and Bridgwater town centres.

**Places to Eat & Drink:** pubs and other facilities at Langport and Bridgwater. Pubs at Burrowbridge, Moorland and Huntworth.

**Public Transport:** See [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or bus timetables from TICs/libraries

**Maps:** You are advised to carry with you OS Explorer Map

- 129 Yeovil & Sherborne
- 140 Quantock Hills & Bridgwater

**Waymarking:** The route is waymarked.

**15. ST 419 267     LANGPORT (A) (from Sections 3 & 4)**

From the River Parrett Visitor Centre (B) cross the footbridge and turn left heading for the main road. At main road turn R into Bow St. and walk along road for 300yds. Turn L on footpath, go through gate at end and turn R along R hand edge of field at the back of houses. When you reach gate to Town Garden on R, turn L and go across middle of field to footbridge. Cross bridge and go straight ahead to reach riverbank and railway bridge.

*(A) Langport was a natural crossing point of the river in prehistoric times and the layout has changed little since then. Original settlement was on the hill at the eastern end of Bow Street where there are a collection of fine houses and the Hanging Chapel.*

*(B) The Visitor Centre contains displays and exhibits explaining the fascinating history of Langport, local industries, the River Parrett and wildlife.*

#### **16.ST 416 272**

Go through kissing gate and under railway bridge to follow R hand bank of River Parrett, passing through several metal gates to reach Monk's Leaze Clyse. Pass through 2 metal gates, crossing a side river, and continue to follow R hand bank of River Parrett for 2 miles, keeping to the high bank between it and the smaller River Sowey. (Views of Aller Church to R). You eventually reach a kissing gate and the metal bridge at Stathe.

#### **17.ST 375 291 STATHE**

Go past bridge and continue along R hand bank of river, signed River Parrett Trail, passing through metal gates. At a bend in river follow permissive path sign to Burrowbridge, continuing to follow R hand bank for 1.5 miles (with views of church on Burrow Mump ahead) until you reach road and pub on R. (C)

*(C) It is certainly worth climbing the Mump for superb views across the Somerset Levels. Turn R here and walk with care along road to a National Trust signed path on R up steps to Burrow Mump. There is also parking area to access the Mump further along the road.*

*Burrow Mump (both words meaning hill) is an outcrop standing at a strategic point. Ruined chapel dedicated*

*to St Michael. A square earthwork part way down indicates military significance.*

#### **4. ST 358 304 BURROWBRIDGE**

Turn L on road, cross river and take first road on R signed to Moorland. Walk with care along road for 1 mile (the road bends R then L to rejoin the riverbank but you can not walk on bank itself). After 1 mile when road bends L away from river keep ahead on no through road following L hand bank of river. On reaching gate keep straight ahead on footpath on L hand bank before reaching the distinctive chimney of Westonzoyland Pumping Station on opposite side of River.

#### **6. ST 339 328 WESTONZOYLAND PUMPING STATION**

After passing pumping station keep ahead on bank to reach 2 kissing gates, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of which takes you back to road. Continue along road in same direction. At next junction keep ahead signed to Huntworth. Pass Moorland Pumping Station on L and at junction carry straight on following the river. Pass pub and cottages on L and turn immediately L on footpath with stream on R.

#### **6. ST 329 332 MOORLAND**

Go through gate and follow R hand edge of field with stream on R. At far end of field go through 3 kissing gates to reach road. Continue ahead on road and, ignoring No Through Road ahead, go slightly uphill to cross railway. Keep ahead to reach swingbridge across Bridgwater & Taunton Canal at Fordgate. (D) Turn R and walk along R



hand towpath of canal for 1.5 miles to reach pub and parking area just before the M5 motorway.

*(Parking area and picnic table – turn L on road before bridge – 50 yds on L).*

*(D) The Bridgwater & Taunton Canal opened in 1827 and linked the River Tone to the River Parrett. Commercial traffic ceased in 1907, overtaken by the coming of the railway. Restoration was completed in 1994.*

## **7. ST 353 350 BOAT & ANCHOR, HUNTWORTH**

From pub continue past canal bridge on R hand towpath under M5 motorway. On reaching next bridge (Crossways Swing-bridge) cross track and follow L hand towpath all the way to Bridgwater Docks/Marina, a distance of 2 miles.

## **8. ST 299 365 BRIDGWATER DOCKS/MARINA**

After passing open fields on L and the YMCA building on R the towpath reaches a housing estate. Continue down on towpath under bridge to enclosed section of canal under several wooden beams each with its own inscription carved on it before going under a further road bridge. The

canal then swings to the R going under 2 more road bridges before reaching the Bridgwater Docks/Marina. *(E)*

Walk along the L hand side of quay and on reaching far end bear round to R and then L to meet road. Turn L down this road (Russell Place) and then immediately cross road and take path on R, with small canal basin on R. Continue to reach bank of River Parrett where it meets the Docks entrance.

*(E) The River Parrett is tidal as far as Langport. In its time Bridgwater was the largest port in the area, even more important than Bristol. Across the centuries wine and herrings, coal and timber, twine and hemp were imported through the town. Exported were wool and agricultural products, corn, wheat, cement, bricks and tiles. By the mid C19th such was the demand that the need for a dock was recognised. It was opened in 1841. The docks closed to commercial shipping in the early 1960s and have been restored as a marina.*

**Start here for Section 6**

**The River Parrett Trail**  
**Following a River from Source to Mouth**

**48 miles from Chedington, Dorset to the Bristol Channel**

**SECTION 6: BRIDGWATER TO THE BRISTOL  
CHANNEL AT STERT POINT**

**Length of walk: 11.5 miles**

**General description:** A level walk for its entire distance. It firstly follows the grassy bank of the River Parrett to Combwich. You continue along the river bank before following tracks to the nature reserve at Stert Point and the mouth of the River Parrett.

**Start point & Parking:** – Parking in Bridgwater, Combwich and at the Nature Reserve at Steart.

**Toilets:** Bridgwater town centre.

**Places to Eat & Drink:** pubs & other facilities in Bridgwater, pub and shop in Combwich.

**Public Transport:** See [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) or [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk) or bus timetables from TICs/libraries

**Maps:** You are advised to carry with you OS Explorer Map

- 140 Quantock Hills Bridgwater

**Waymarking:** The route is waymarked.

**18.ST 296 375 BRIDGWATER DOCKS/MARINA (A)**  
**(from Section 5)**

*(A) To visit Bridgwater turn R here and follow river bank to centre of town. As you approach the old town bridge across the River Parrett you will pass many old historic buildings along West Quay. Look out for Castle Street on the R with its fine C18th buildings that lead to King Square.*

*Bridgwater was the birth place of Robert Blake (1598-1657), General at Sea. The Blake Museum in Blake St*

*houses a collection of local history and archaeology, from life in the earliest settlements to the colourful excitement of Bridgwater Carnival.*

### **19.ST 299 377 BRIDGWATER**

(From this point you will follow the L hand river bank for the next 7.5 miles until you reach Combswich).

Follow left hand bank of River Parrett. Pass under main road and continue ahead on grassy bank, with tarmac road on L. Where tarmac road bends L, continue on grassy bank to R of trees. At R hand bend in river go through kissing gate and continue ahead. 300 yds further on pass stile. At L hand bend cross Pims Pill. Where river bends R pass through kissing gate and then after sharp L hand bend pass through 2 metal gates to reach Dunball Wharf (located on opposite side of river at sharp L hand bend).

### **3. ST 308 407 DUNBALL WHARF**

Continue on grassy bank through gates and kissing gates with views to the right of the village of Pawlett. Pass through further kissing gates, metal gates and past the water management system features at Pippin's Clyce, Fenlyn's Clyce and Stallington's Clyce.

### **4. ST 278 409 STALLINGTON'S CLYCE**

Continue along L hand bank of river northwards for 1.5 miles through 3 metal gates (views of Combswich and its church spire ahead). On reaching end of river bank path turn L.

### **5. ST 262 421**

Go along a narrow path, straight ahead across tarmac road and keep ahead on narrow path. Where this path ends turn R to reach road. Turn L on road to pass houses on L and just before reaching main road turn R on path crossing stream, passing through metal barriers to reach road. Turn sharp R down Riverside with stream on R.

*(Turn L at this point to reach shop; go straight ahead at this point up Church Hill to visit church).*

Walk along road which bends left to reach a small mooring area for boats. (B)

*(B) Combswich was a Roman port and remained a principal sea port until the rise of Bridgwater in the C13th. It remained busy with small ships trading mainly with Ireland, transferring goods to and from river craft which came down from inland Somerset. It too had its own brick and tile industry.*

### **6. ST 260 425 COMBSWICH HARBOUR**

Continue on road passing pub on L. Where road bends L continue straight ahead on firm track which bends R to rejoin L hand bank of river. After around 300yds turn L onto the new path along the boundary of the Steart Marshes nature reserve, From here you will have views ahead to the coast and east to the Mendip Hills. Continue to follow the new paths with signposts on or adjacent to the reserve bank.

*Turn L to visit other parts of Steart Marshes reserve. Across Steart Drove there are toilets and further information points.*

## **7. ST 275 444**

At the far end of the new reserve bank turn left to reach a stone track.

*Before heading down to the stone track you can continue on the path to the river bank. From here you will have views across the point where the old river bank was breached.*

Follow this track for approximately 200yds to reach the road.

*(Turn L at this point for Bridgwater Bay National Nature Reserve car park and start of West Somerset Coast Path).*

Turn R and walk along road which ends at a pedestrian gate and metal gate. Follow this track all the way to reach the tall bird hide, which marks the end of the River Parrett Trail.

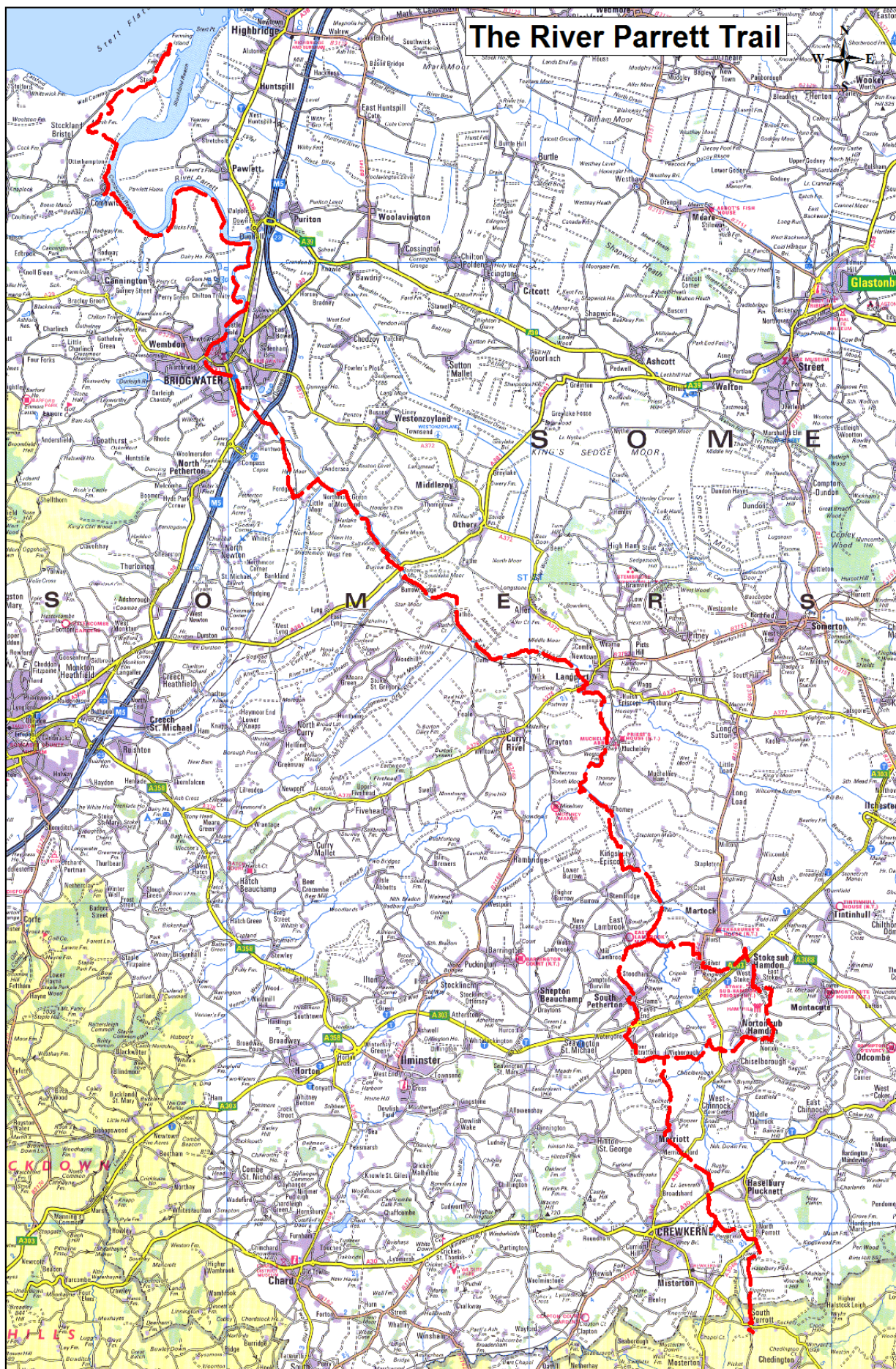
## **8. ST 281 468 STERT POINT**

*Bridgwater Bay National Nature Reserve is part of the Severn Estuary. The Reserve's mudflats, sand banks and salt marshes are nationally important feeding and roosting*

*sites for wildfowl and wading birds. There are a number of viewing hides.*

*There is a circular walk back to the car park. From the tall bird hide return to the gate to the reserve but do not go through it. Instead take the gate to the R of this, close to the beach edge. Walk with the beach edge on R and after passing 2<sup>nd</sup> seat turn L on grassy path back to car park.*

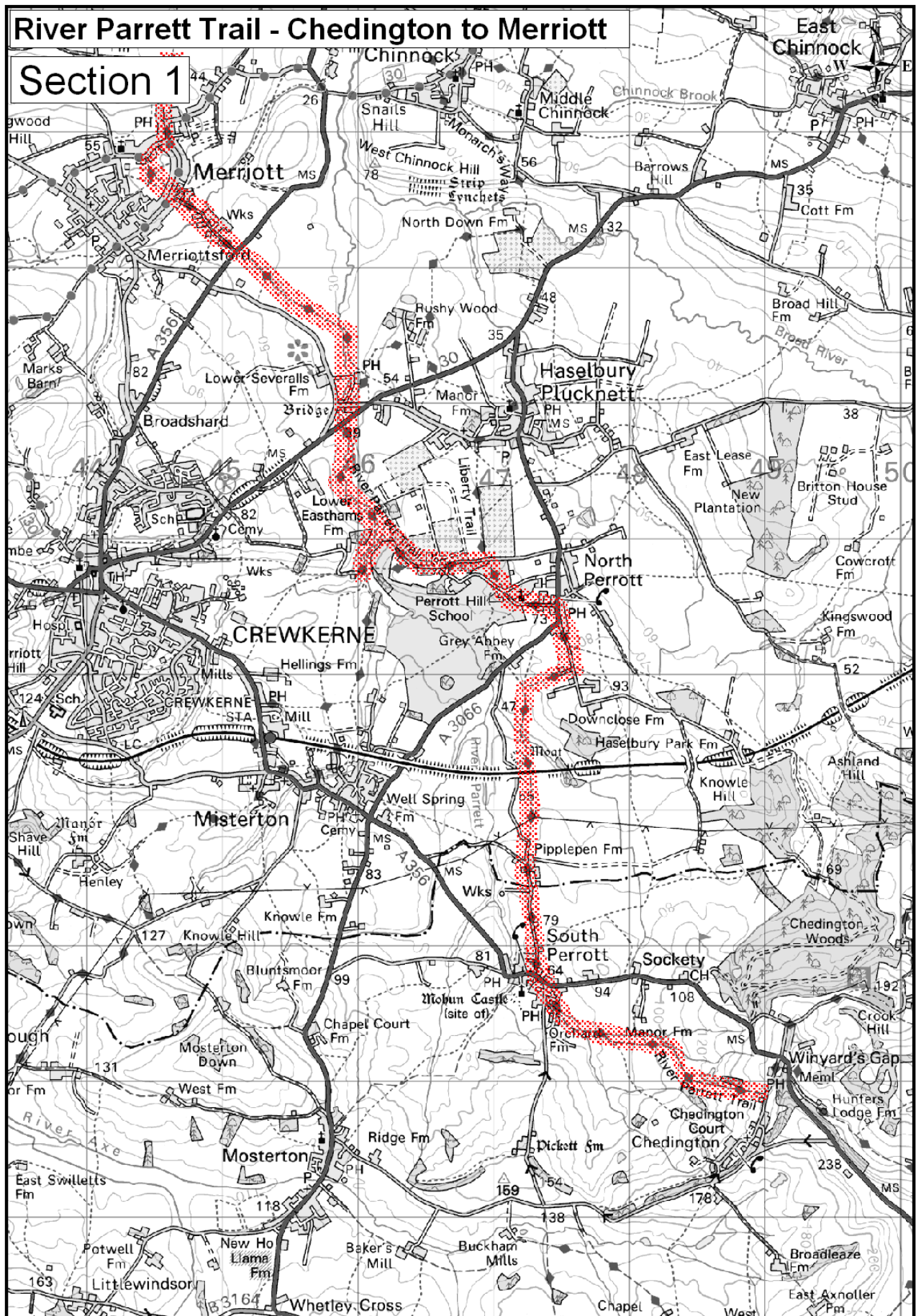






# River Parrett Trail - Chedington to Merriott

## Section 1



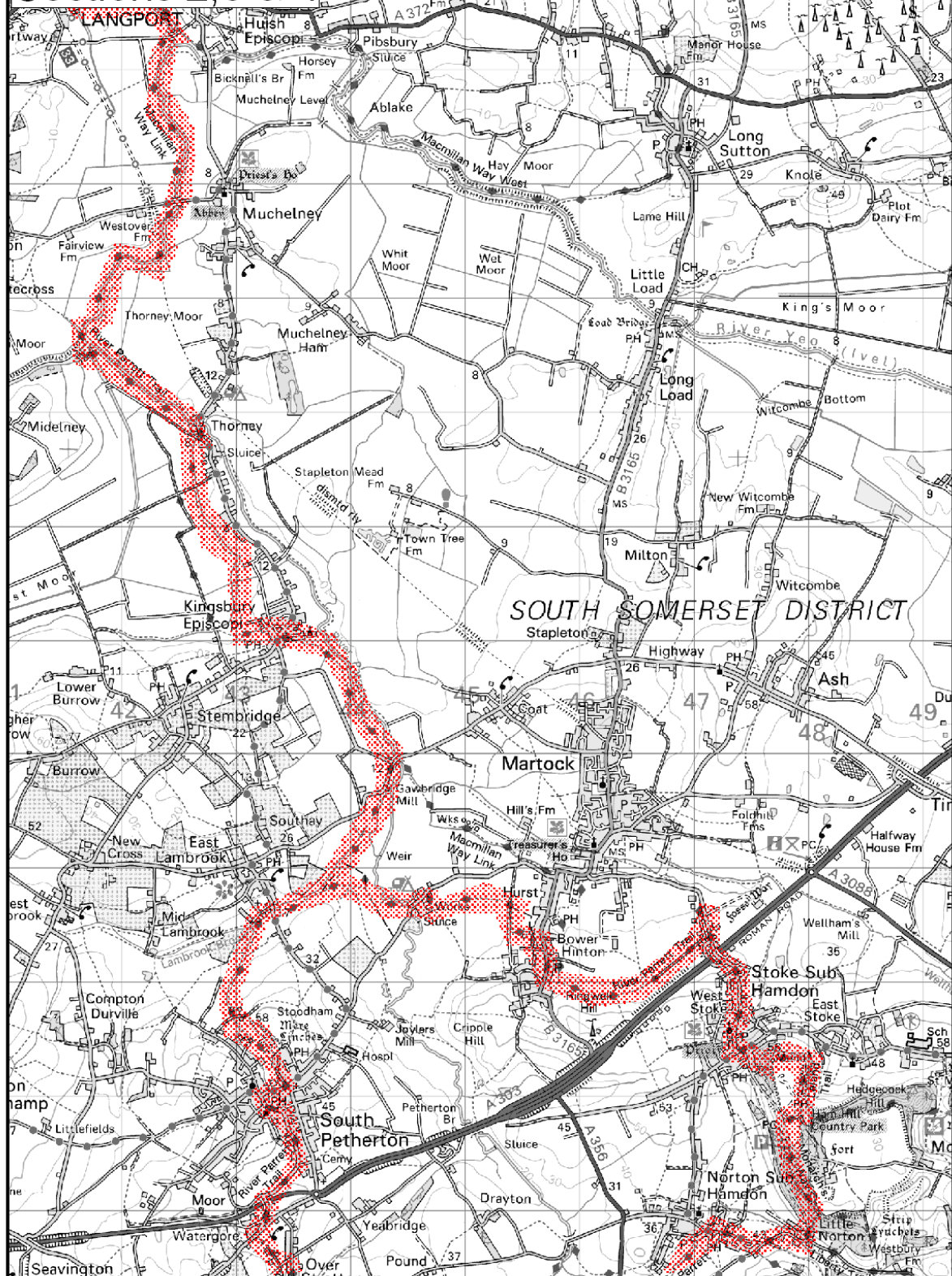






# River Parrett Trail - Ham Hill & South Petherton to Langport

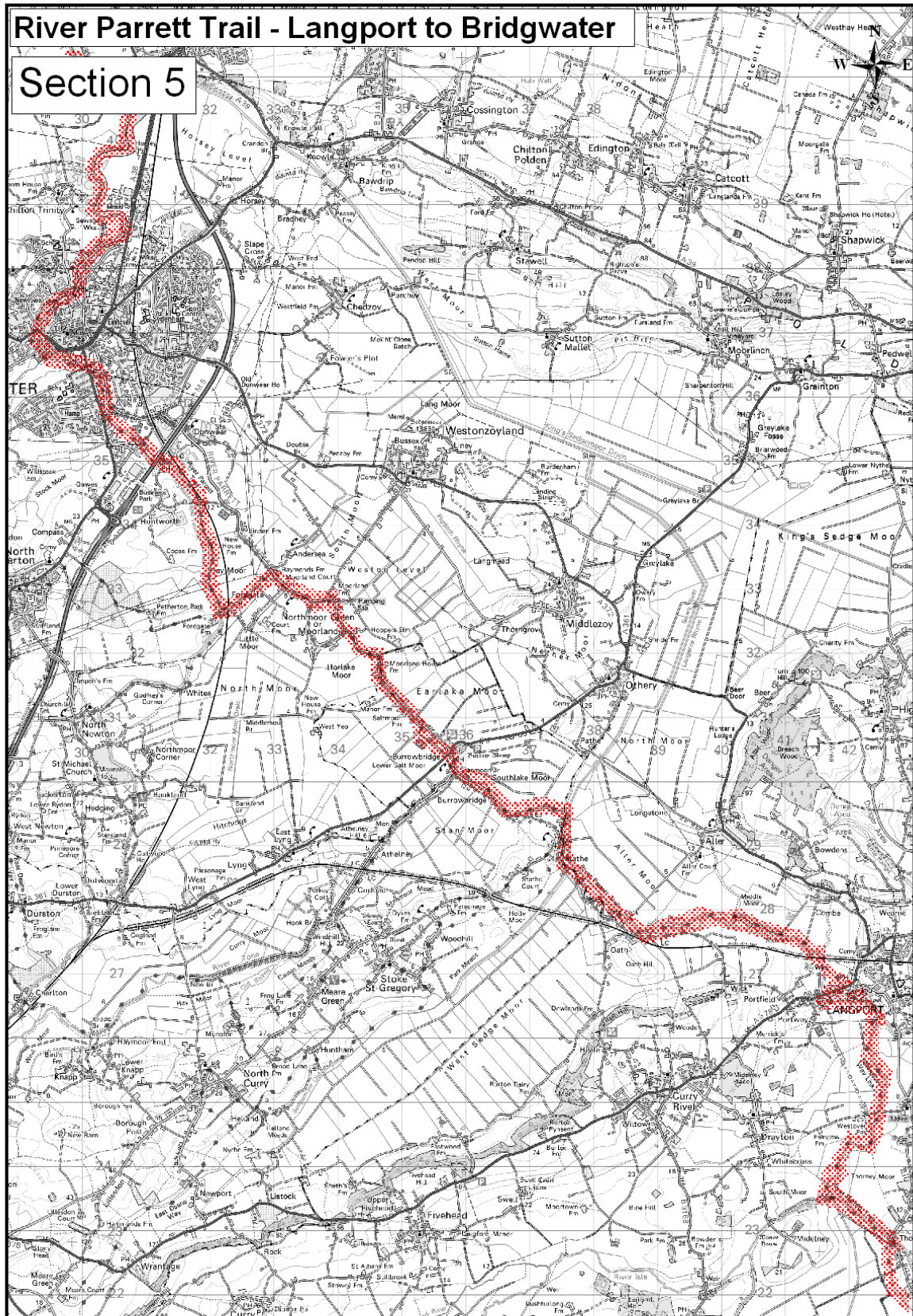
## Sections 2,3 & 4





# River Parrett Trail - Langport to Bridgwater

## Section 5





# River Parrett Trail - Bridgwater to Stert Point

## Section 6

